The following table may help illustrate the distinction between syndromic surveillance and traditional surveillance and highlight the great potential of syndromic data.

Table: Examples of Clinical Scenarios and the Information Available to Syndromic versus Traditional Surveillance Systems

Situation prompting visit to medical provider	Syndromic Surveillance data available at time of visit	Traditional Surveillance data available after clinical workup and epidemiological investigation is complete
Patient has bout of diarrheal illness associated with fever and bloody stool that causes him to go to the Emergency Department	<ul> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>Date of Onset</li> <li>Initial Temperature (990)</li> <li>Chief Complaint of Diarrhea</li> <li>Discharge Diagnosis of Bloody Diarrhea</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>All laboratory data including: Stool Culture results of Shiga toxin producing E. coli and detailed antibiotic susceptibility</li> <li>Complete History and Physical</li> <li>Potential Supplemental Patient and/or Provider Interview to Collect: Detailed Food History, Travel History, or other information</li> <li>Definitive Diagnosis of Ecoli O157/H7</li> </ul>
Patient has bout of influenza – like illness	<ul> <li>Patient Identifiers including:</li> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>Date of Onset</li> <li>Initial Temperature(1020)</li> <li>Chief Complaint of Cough</li> <li>Discharge diagnosis of UpperRespiratory Infection</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Patient Identifiers including:</li> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>All laboratory data including: Results of Respiratory Virus PCR Panel, Streptococcal Antigen testing, Chest X ray</li> <li>Complete History and Physical</li> </ul>

Situation prompting visit to medical provider	Syndromic Surveillance data available at time of visit	Traditional Surveillance data available after clinical workup and epidemiological investigation is complete
		Potential Supplemental Patient and/or Provider  Interview to Collect: Detailed Exposure History, Travel History, or other information  Definitive Diagnosis of Influenza
Patient has rash illness	<ul> <li>Patient Identifiers including:</li> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>Date of Onset</li> <li>Initial Temperature (103O)</li> <li>Chief Complaints of Rash and Cough</li> <li>Discharge diagnosis of Viral Exanthem</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Name, Age, Race, Gender</li> <li>All laboratory data including: Results of acute and convalescent serological tests for measles, mumps, and rubella viruses</li> <li>Complete History and Physical</li> <li>Supplemental Exposure and Travel History</li> <li>Definitive Diagnosis of Measles</li> </ul>